

ADMINISTRATION

Responsibility for the Territory is vested in the United Kingdom High Commissioner to New Zealand, who is also designated Governor of Pitcairn. Pitcairn Islanders manage their internal affairs through an Island Council consisting of 10 members: the Island Magistrate, who serves as Chairman with both executive and judicial powers and is elected for three years; three councillors, elected each year; the Island Secretary, who is a public officer serving *ex officio*; one member appointed by the Governor; two members chosen by the elected members; and two non-voting advisory members (one chosen by the Governor, the other by the rest of the Council).

The Internal Committee is composed of an elected Chairman and any other members the Island Council may appoint. Its principal function is to organize and implement the work programme.

The Island Court consists of the Island Magistrate and two councillors. Its jurisdiction is limited to civil actions and to offences committed in territorial waters by Pitcairn Island residents in contravention of the Island Code. There is provision for appeal to the Supreme Court of Pitcairn, which the Governor has the power to constitute and which has jurisdiction in cases outside the competence of the Island Court. The Court is rarely required to sit. During 1988/89, no court cases were held.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Because the population is relatively stable, land use has

varied little in recent years. Land is family-owned; ownership is usually gained by inheritance but the law allows for leasehold arrangements and for "borrowing" land. Most food and staple items are imported and supplemented by limited local produce. Principal sources of income continue to be postage stamp sales and revenue from interest and dividends.

Imports, mostly for home use, consist principally of cereals, eggs, fats, meat, milk, sugar, machinery, fuel, lubricating oil and building materials. Exports consist of handicrafts, fruits and vegetables, sold mainly to passing vessels.

There are a few goats on the island and some poultry is kept for domestic consumption. With the introduction of honey bees 10 years ago, small quantities of honey are available for local consumption and their pollination of tree and garden crops has increased production.

Subsistence fishing is one of the main occupations of the islanders. Under the Fisheries Zone Ordinance of 1980, Pitcairn declared a 200-mile fisheries zone around the island. Two fishing licences were issued in 1988.

Sea communication is maintained by one shipping company which makes approximately four calls per year on vessels travelling between New Zealand and Panama. Other cargo vessels make unscheduled calls. During 1988, 37 cargo vessels, one naval vessel, four cruise ships, 11 other vessels and 22 yachts stopped at the island for periods ranging from a few hours to three weeks.

Natural timber resources were depleted by indiscriminate use but reafforestation is continuing with the planting of miro trees (for carving), Norfolk pine (for



Tristan, and the uninhabited islands of Inaccessible, Nightingale, Middle, Stoltenhoff and Gough, which are among the most isolated islands in the world. They are of considerable scientific interest because of their isolation and their special flora and fauna, which include numerous species not found elsewhere in the world. Tristan's unique postal stamps are much sought after by philatelists.

In December 1988, the indigenous population of Tristan da Cunha, mainly of mixed descent, was 306. There were four births, three deaths and one marriage among the islanders during 1988. The only settlement is Edinburgh, on the north coast.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St. Helena was discovered in 1502 by a Portuguese sailor. It has been under British rule since 1659, when a British East Indies Company settlement was established.

The island was the home of astronomer Edward Halley. The vanquished Napoleon was sent there in 1815 for detention, and died at Long Wood in 1821.

ADMINISTRATION

The 1967 Constitution of St. Helena provides for a Governor and Commander-in-Chief appointed by the Queen, an Executive Council (composed of the Governor, two *ex officio* members and the chairmen of the Legislative Council's committees), with whom the Governor is required to consult on most matters, and a Legislative Council

(composed of the Governor, two *ex officio* members and 12 elected members).

Legislative Council elections take place every four years. The Council's committees may be charged with executive functions as well as responsibility for any subject or department of government.

There are no active political parties in St. Helena.

The power to make laws for St. Helena is vested in the Governor, acting with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council. With regard to Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, this power is vested in the Governor alone.

On Ascension, an Administrator, assisted by an Advisory Council (composed of representatives of organizations using the island), is responsible for running the island.

For Tristan da Cunha, day-to-day legislative and executive matters are handled by an Administrator and an Island Council (comprising eight elected and three nominated members), which has advisory functions in legislative and executive matters.

There are four courts in St. Helena—the Supreme Court (with full criminal and civil jurisdiction), the Magistrate's Court, the Small Debts Court and the Juvenile Court. A Court of Appeals may sit at Jamestown or in London, United Kingdom. A non-resident Supreme Court judge visits the Territory regularly.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

St. Helena possesses few natural resources. Agriculture, largely of a subsistence nature, is the main economic

building), fruit trees (for local consumption) and macadamia trees (as a potential cash crop).

The population is self-employed. Allowances and wages are paid to members of the community who participate in local government activities. There is no permanent labour force and the rate of payment for casual work, usually for the local administration, rose to \$NZ 1.65 per hour in 1988/89 from \$NZ 1.46 in 1987/88. (\$NZ 1.00 was equivalent to approximately 60 United States cents in 1988/89.) The community meets its basic needs from the soil, the sea and private trading.

The Government employs registered medical practitioners to act as Medical Officer on a short-term basis. There is a well-equipped government clinic run by a registered nurse in co-operation with a church organization.

The Government meets the cost of medical supplies and drugs. If medical treatment is required outside Pitcairn, compassionate grants or loans are available from public funds. Pensions are paid to persons 65 years of age and over.

There is one school operated and financed by the Government. The school roll comprised eight girls and four boys in 1988/89. Instruction is in English and is based on the New Zealand standard curriculum. Post-primary education is conducted at the school by correspondence courses arranged through the New Zealand Department of Education. Government grants are provided to enable children to attend secondary schools and trade schools in New Zealand. During 1988, two post-primary students attended school in New Zealand at government expense.

PUBLIC FINANCE

During fiscal year 1988/89, Pitcairn recorded a budget surplus of \$NZ 49,100, with total revenue amounting to \$NZ 1.1 million. (During 1987/88, it had a budget surplus of about \$NZ 120,000, compared to the budget deficit of \$NZ 8,000 in 1986/87.)

FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS

In a statement to the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in October 1990, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that regardless of the size of the Territory and the number of people involved, the wishes of the inhabitants had remained the guiding principle of his Government's policy. The Government's aim was to ensure that the people decided for themselves their political future and that they determined whether they wished to exercise their right to independence or to opt for some other status.

In December 1990, by a decision adopted by consensus, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which fully applies to the Territory. The Assembly further reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the social and economic development of the Territory, and urged that Power to continue to respect the very individual life-style that the people of the Territory had chosen and to preserve, promote and protect it.



ST. HELENA

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he Territory of St. Helena consists of the island of St. Helena and two dependencies—the island of Ascension and a group of islands forming the dependency of Tristan da Cunha.

Situated in the South Atlantic Ocean approximately 1,900 kilometres from Angola and 2,900 km from Brazil, the Territory covers a total land area of 412 square kilometres.

St. Helena, where the Territory's capital, Jamestown, is located, is the largest island, with an area of 122 square kilometres. Approximately one third of the population of St. Helena is resident in Jamestown. The next largest communities are at Long Wood, in the east of the island, and at Half Tree Hollow, in the north-west. The remainder of the population lives in small cottage communities or single cottages.

The 88-square-kilometre Ascension Island lies to the north-west. The island is of considerable scientific interest as it is a breeding site for the green turtle and various species of sea birds.

Ascension has no indigenous population. Its popula-

tion varies from year to year according to the availability of local employment, and consists mainly of St. Helenians (also Tristanians) and United Kingdom and United States expatriates. In December 1988, the population of the island was estimated at 1,035—consisting of 683 St. Helenians, 200 United Kingdom nationals, 139 United States nationals and 13 others, not including British military personnel.

The 99-square-kilometre dependency of Tristan da Cunha, 2,400 km to the south, consists of a volcanic island,

LOCATION: South Atlantic

CAPITAL: Jamestown

AREA: 412 square kilometres

POPULATION
(1987 Est., excluding dependencies): 5,500

ADMINISTERING POWER: United Kingdom

activity. Food production is insufficient to supply the island's needs. That, together with a lack of manufacturing industries, results in importation of the vast majority of its requirements.

During 1988/89, more land was made available for forestry purposes, and weather conditions allowed tree planting to start early. By the end of the planting season, 57,304 trees had been planted. Income from sales of timber and posts during 1988/89 amounted to 24,585 St. Helena pounds (the St. Helena pound is equivalent to the pound sterling). Dry-land afforestation continued to make steady progress with digging of contour trenches, planting of aloes and direct seed-sowing. Flax-land forest, previously privately owned, was bought by the St. Helena Government for designation as a national forest.

The principal resource is the fishing industry. The St. Helena Fisheries Corporation, a statutory body, was established in 1979 to make the best use of the island's marine resources. There are facilities for freezing, storing and processing fish. There were 18 full-time and five part-time fishermen by March 1989. Fifteen fishing vessels were used on a full-time basis and 18 on a part-time basis. A small frozen-fish export market was found in the United Kingdom for a limited number of species, and about 150 metric tons a year can be exported.

An offshore exploratory fishing survey, begun in 1985/86 to identify fishing resources and potential of the sea within St. Helena's 200-mile zone, was completed. The survey was used to gather basic marine biological, oceanographic and fisheries data. A survey was also conducted on purse-seine trials of skipjack.

Another survey to establish the extent of the Territory's lobster resources and their distribution was also completed. A proposal for a second phase, setting out a programme for expansion of St. Helena's fishing fleet and for the handling, processing and expansion of workshop facilities over three years, has been submitted.

There is no airport or airstrip on St. Helena and no railway. The only port is Jamestown, which provides good anchorage for ships of any size. The island's main link with the outside world continues to be the *R.M.S. St. Helena*, which plies between Avonmouth in the United Kingdom and Cape Town in South Africa, with calls at the Cape Verde islands and Ascension. The service receives an annual subsidy of about £2 million from the United Kingdom. During 1988/89, the *St. Helena* made six round-trip voyages and a number of shuttles between St. Helena and Ascension Island to transport workers.

Since 1981, the fuel requirements of St. Helena have been met by a small tanker, which brings in bulk supplies from the Canary Islands and acts as a floating storage depot.

There is no large-scale industry on St. Helena. All crafts are practised on a cottage-industry basis, with technical, financial and marketing facilities provided by the Government. A brewery, opened in 1982, was producing an average of 1,318 litres a month by March 1988. During 1988/89, the brewery suffered a downward trend in production and sales which, at 31 March 1989, did not exceed in value £9,200, compared with £14,600 the year before.

St. Helena's main imports are food products and

tobacco, motor spirits and fuel oil, animal feed, building materials, motor vehicles, machinery and spare parts. Its only exports are fish and handicrafts. Its main trading partners are the United Kingdom and South Africa, which supply 60 and 32 per cent, respectively, of all imports. Others include Brazil, which provides 1.6 per cent of imports, and Ascension. During 1986/87, total imports to the Territory were valued at £5,048,710, compared with £5,212,145 in 1985/86.

Ascension Island is an important communications centre serving as a relay station for telegrams between South Africa and Europe and for international telecommunications. During the Second World War, the United States, under an agreement with the United Kingdom, established an airstrip on the island. It was expanded and improved in the 1960s. Since 1956, when a further agreement was concluded between the two Governments, the base has been operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as part of the United States rocket-tracking system.

Ascension was regarrisoned during the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) conflict in 1982. It was reported that, as a result of the conflict, several facilities were further improved and expanded, including the installation of an additional water desalination plant and the laying of a five-kilometre-long oil pipeline. A new Royal Air Force camp was completed in 1984. An airstrip near the settlement of Georgetown was being extended in 1985. The island continues to provide a key link to British supply lines to the South Atlantic.

The main industry for the Tristan da Cunha dependen-

cy is crayfishing, the chief source of employment for the population. The sale of postage stamps and other philatelic items is the second largest source of income.

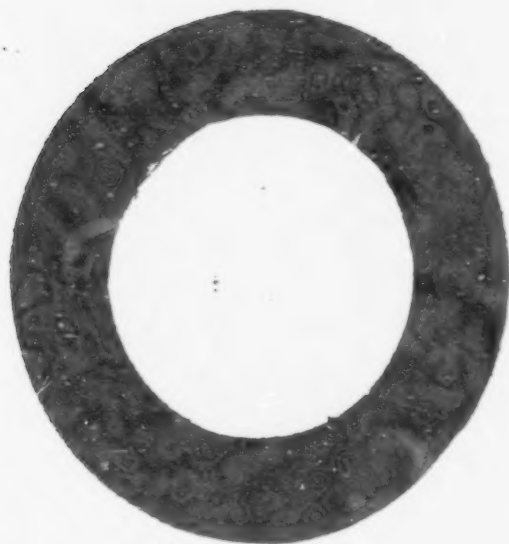
The majority of the St. Helena labour force work for the Government, which, in order to prevent unemployment, employs people through labour-intensive development projects financed from United Kingdom aid funds. Employment on Ascension Island provides a major outlet for the labour force, given the limitations of the productive sectors on St. Helena.

The principal categories of wage earners are agricultural workers, skilled and general labourers, building tradesmen and apprentices, fishermen and boatmen, mechanics, engineers and motor drivers.

No migrant labourers are employed on St. Helena, except for a small number of expatriates employed in the public service. Work permits are required and are granted only if suitable St. Helenians are not available.

The general state of health of the population is good and the nutritional standard is generally satisfactory. There is a 54-bed general hospital at Jamestown, a mental hospital at Half Tree Hollow and six district health centres. Specialists pay regular visits to the island, but patients are referred abroad for major surgical operations.

Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. There are primary, secondary, vocational and teacher-education schools. A technical training centre has been operating on St. Helena for 14 years. It offers courses in masonry, carpentry, joinery and motor mechanics.





PUBLIC FINANCE

For 1988/89, revenue and expenditure totalled £5,748,400 each (as against, respectively, £4,509,600 and £5,146,200 for 1987/88).

ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In October 1989 in the Fourth Committee, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that in previous years his delegation had sought the deletion from the draft decision on St. Helena of the most offensive sentence, namely, the reference to military facilities on Ascension Island. It had also made clear that other sentences were unacceptable to it. In 1989, it had concluded that the draft decision was simply beyond redemption.

The representative said that, first, Ascension Island had no indigenous population and was more than 1,000 km from St. Helena. Its links with St. Helena were purely administrative. It was not even on the Fourth Committee's agenda. Therefore his Government could not accept that the very limited military facilities on Ascension Island should be regarded as a source of concern to anyone, least of all to the people of St. Helena.

Secondly, concern was expressed about the so-called trade and transportation dependence of the Territory on South Africa. In reality, that amounted to a solitary cargo

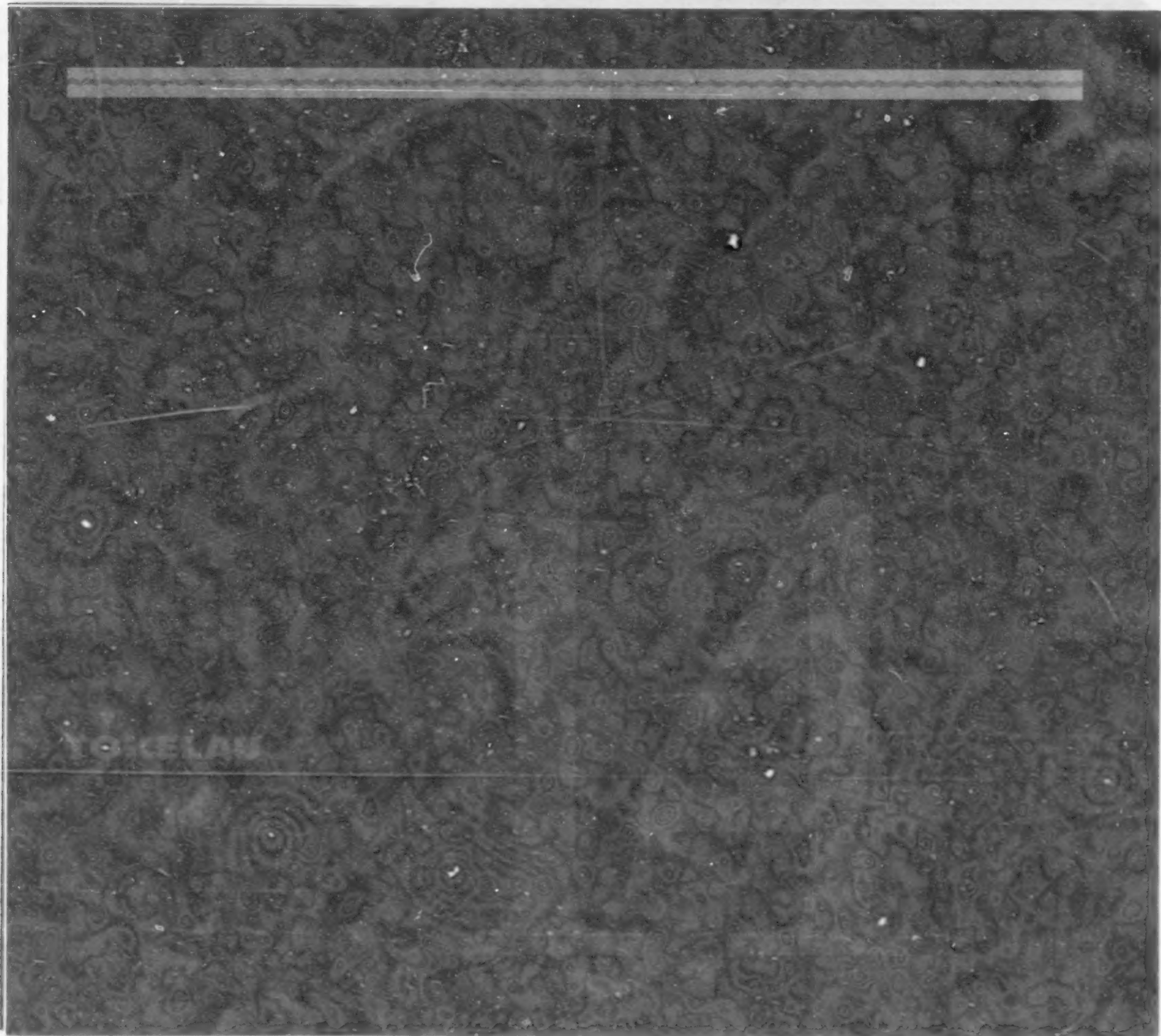
vessel which plied the route between London, St. Helena and the only suitable port in the vicinity—Cape Town. As for the reminder that the United Kingdom should not involve St. Helena in offensive acts or interference by South Africa against neighbouring States, his delegation found it impossible to imagine what in concrete terms the drafters of that statement had in mind.

Thirdly, the draft decision demonstrated how detached the Special Committee's consideration had become from the reality in St. Helena. It disregarded totally what the British Government was doing there.

In November 1990, the General Assembly decided, by a recorded vote, to urge the administering Power, in consultation with the Legislative Council and other representatives of the people of St. Helena, to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure speedy implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

In view of the serious developments in South Africa, the General Assembly noted with concern the trade and transportation dependency of the Territory on South Africa.

It also noted with deep concern the continued presence of military facilities on Ascension Island and urged the administering Power to take all necessary measures not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against neighbouring States by the racist régime of South Africa.



TOKELAU

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okelau is located in the South Pacific about 480 kilometres north of Samoa. It consists of three small atolls—Nukunonu (4.7 square kilometres), Fakaofu (4 square kilometres) and Atafu (3.5 square kilometres)—with a total land area of approximately 12.2 square kilometres. Nukunonu, the central atoll, is 92 km south-east of Atafu and 64 km north-west of Fakaofu. The population is of Polynesian stock. Linguistic, family and cultural links are with Tuvalu and Samoa.

According to the 1986 census, the total population of Tokelau was 1,690—representing an increase of 118 as compared with 1981. There were 426 inhabitants on Nukunonu, 661 on Fakaofu and 603 on Atafu. The constraints of atoll life and population pressure have led some 3,000 Tokelauans to settle abroad, particularly in New Zealand and Samoa.

The United Nations dispatched visiting missions to Tokelau in 1976, 1981 and 1986.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The settlement of Tokelau occurred in the course of Polynesian migration throughout the eastern Pacific. The date is unknown, although there are suggestions of habitation for about 1,000 years. The islands remained relatively undisturbed until the 1850s, when they were raided by

LOCATION: South Pacific

AREA: 12.2 square kilometres

POPULATION (1986): 1,690

ADMINISTERING POWER: New Zealand